

RawHide Gazette

"Without question, the RawHide Gazette is by far the best and most informative and comprehensive Guild publications of all of them! You are to be commended for your very fine and professional efforts. Keep up the good work. With admiration"

/signed/

Al & Ann Stohlman, December 1997

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Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op

March 2014

Cascade Mountain Men Show

Hide Highlights

Page

- 3.....Robb Gray's Shop
- 6.....Rocky Mountain Leather Trade Show
- 7.....Workshop Report
- 8.....Bill Churchill Award
- 10...Western Washington PSLAC Schedules
- 11...Eastern Washington PSLAC Schedules
- 11...Did You Know.....?
- 12...Advertisements
- 15...Map & Directions

Ken's Knothole

I had an article in last month's *RawHide Gazette* on the Cascade Mountain Men Muzzle Loading Arms and Pioneer Craft Show that was held in the Monroe Fairgrounds on March 8 and 9th. We had a pretty

saw some other folks from our group at the show and even had one of my coworkers come out for the experience.

The show started many years ago as a way for vendors/traders to display and sell period correct clothing, tents,



guns, accoutrements, generally things that a person needs to be properly "fitted out" to go to Rendezvous, which are put on by the black powder shooting clubs in the area. This generally re-created in a small way, the fur trade era of the early 1800's, where traders would come out from St. Louis every summer with goods and supplies and meet with the fur trappers at a designated place and time in the Rocky Mountains. The trappers would sell their furs and restock their supplies and trade goods for the winter and they generally had a 2 to 3 week

good turnout there this year, especially on Saturday. I've had tables at the show for a number of years and whether I sell a little or a lot, it's always a fun time, getting caught up with friends I haven't seen since the previous year. As I mentioned, the traders all dress-up in their period costumes and their best fooferaw and gewgaws, beads and such, as do many of the folks from the local black powder shooting clubs, so it's a real colorful weekend, as you can see from some of the pictures that Paula Marquis and I took. I



March 2014 - HideSide 1

Next Meeting on
Sunday April 13th at
1:00 PM

Meet at The Cedar Grange Hall
No. 534 at Maple Valley
(See last page for map
& directions)

blowout. The present day local black powder shooting clubs each choose a weekend and put on a Rendezvous, either out in the



Totally hand made outfit, all the beading and decorations are all hand sewn.

mountains or at their shooting range. They have a primitive



Front view. Outfit is available for purchase for \$4,000.00.

camping area with teepees and white canvas wall tents, a Traders Row, and off around the corner

and out of sight, an area for the "tin teepees" (motor homes). The public is welcome to attend but are generally expected to at least be in period costumes. There is shooting competitions, knife and hawk throwing, fire starting, demonstrations such as flint knapping, beadwork, weaving,



An old working rifling machine.

drum making, making cordage, etc. And at night they manage to get in some visiting, and partying, around the campfires.

From a leather working standpoint at the show, I saw handmade leather canteens, many different kinds of shooting bags, leather dresses, moccasins; rawhides, deer, elk, and moose skins, oil tanned hides, artificial sinew, and other sewing supplies.



A redskin.

I bought some mahogany colored dye used for gun stocks, to try on



Ken Erichsen

leather. The effect was a little washed out and I probably won't do that again. Andy and Pat, from Tandy, had a booth there and I got some new leather dye from Andy, but I haven't had a chance to try that yet. I'll bring both to April's PSLAC meeting and let you see what they look like. My home remodel this year put a serious crimp in the time and energy I had for making the things I usually make, such as small bags with leather springs to



The PSLAC group after the show.

hold the round lead balls, flint pouches, and shooting bags. But I still managed to fill my tables, and as always, I had a great time and I'm looking forward to next year's show. Hopefully, we'll see you on Sunday, April 13, at the Maple Valley Grange.

Ken Erichsen

Continued on next page

A few days ago Len and I spent a couple hours with Robb Gray at his shop in West Seattle; located in the basement of his home. It is made up of small, function oriented, cubicles which makes it crowded for 3 people with all the equipment that is there. Immediately inside the door is the leather working and shipping area. In the rear of this area is the metal band saw, the air circulation system, the kiln for heat treating the blades and several shelves holding supplies of knife blade blanks and handle materials and other knife making supplies. To the right is his "Dirty Room", or the room for metal working where all the mess

rear is a small drafting area where the plans are drawn up. Obviously, I have left out a lot more of the tooling, but this is the basic set up.

Robb uses razor blade steel, Sandvik, made in Sweden for the stock in most of his hunting knives. But for his leather workers knives he uses a special 440c that is doubled rolled bar stock, not stock cut from a sheet; this arrives in sheets that are 5" by 6". All the patterns for his stock knives are in a computer at a company that he has water jet cut the blanks for the knives. The desired patterns are laid out in the computer to eliminate as much waste material as possible and the blanks are cut.



First grinding to cut to the center line.

several different styles of leather working knives, fighting knives, hunting knives, and a couple filet knives.

Robb took us through the beginning process of making a knife. Len selected one of the Chan Geer designed round knife blanks because this will eventually be his personal knife. Robb first measured the thickness of the blade. (This now gets into knife making technology which I will try to describe as we go along.) A knife blade cannot be ground to its final thickness prior to heat treating as it will warp during this process and require much more work to straighten its edge out, if in fact it can be. For instance, if a blade is 1/16" thick, which is .065 in thousandths, he leaves 20 thousandths (.020) in the center which is where the final cutting edge will be. This leaves .0225 to be removed from each side of center. The edge of the blank is painted with Dykem, which is a dark blue metal worker's ink. It is then laid on the leather carving block, which is a granite machinist's inspection block, about 3" thick, and



Marking the edge of the knife blank for grinding.

is made with the two main machines being the Grizzly milling machine and the Baldor belt grinder with several attachments and a buffer/polisher. To the immediate left is his "Studio" or engraving room with the GRS engraver, the engraver's vice, microscope, and the various hand pieces and engraving points and an air compressor. To the left

After cutting all the edges are checked and any burrs are removed. After that they are run through a surface grinder to remove any surface imperfections and to grind the blanks to a specific thickness. On all the "standard" shaped knives, holes for the pins and or screws are also drilled. These blanks are then stored on the shelves, there being



Grinding back the bevel. The grinding residue is directed to a catch basin located under the grinding wheel.

perfectly flat. An instrument called a height micrometer is used to scribe a line along the edge. This instrument is a flat block with a micrometer that measures up from this flat surface with a scribe on a shaft. This scribe point is raised .0225 and the edge scribed then the blade is flipped over and scribed again leaving a center of .020. Next the sides of the blade are painted with the Dykem for approximately 3/4 inch from the edge. Then a line is scribed 1/2 inch from the edge on both sides. This will be where the basic grind line will end.

This Baldor grinder uses 2" by 72" belts of various grits from 60 to 3000. It has a drive wheel and an idler wheel, and attachments mounted on separate removable arms. These attachments are a primary 10" grinding wheel, a flat adjustable platen, and one with a couple very small wheels to get into small areas called a Double Billy Roll. The working wheel is covered with a rubber tire. It has a powerful variable speed motor and can run in reverse for special applications. Robb has made several jigs for this grinder that varies the angle of attack where the blade will

meet the surface of the belt. This jig's working surface was a flat plate that positioned the blank at a very shallow angle. Robb starts every blade with this process to create a "guide grind" which shows him where the outer edges

other corner, grinding a path approximately 1/8" on both sides of the blade. He then removed the guide grind jig and began to create the bevel of the cutting edge by hand. He continued grinding away material in small



Engraving station.

of the cutting edge will be once all the appropriate material is removed. He started at one corner of the blade and ground around the circumference to the

passes until he reached the 1/2" line and the center line on each side. By using many passes in this way it leaves a very slightly convex arc from the flat surface

out to the cutting edge, which is what is desired. Being very safety conscious he wears a safety apron, respirator, 2 layers of eye protection, various gloves and hearing protection when grinding, buffing, or polishing and all other times as needed.

At this point, if the knife is going to be engraved it is buffed and polished to its final finish and engraved; it will be heat treated later. This is because the steel is shipped to Robb in the annealed condition, which is the softest steel can get; Robb cannot engrave hardened steel. Heat treating is basically a two stage process. Depending on the steel, the first –or hardening- stage heats the steel to approximately 2,000 degrees F and brings it back down to room temperature within 11 seconds. This rapid cooling is called quenching, and can be done by dousing it in water or oil, or letting it cool in the air, again, depending upon the type of steel used. Robb air quenches his knives between 2 - 1" thick aluminum plates that each weigh 38 pounds. The steel at this point is very hard, so hard that a file should not even scratch it and should just skate across the surface.

The second – or tempering- stage reheats the metal back up between 350 and 500 degrees and holds it there for a time before letting it slowly cool to room temperature. This leaves the steel at the "working" hardness that is in our case, a working knife edge. Metal, in its annealed condition is too soft for any kind of edge to hold up for any amount of time. In its hardened condition, it is very brittle, and again unusable for most things. It must be "drawn" down to a usable condition, which varies according to its intended usage and metallurgical make up.

The Rockwell scale is one of the methods used to test the hardness of metals. For leather working knives, a

reading of between 58 and 60 is desired. Robb goes for 60; anything harder will be too brittle and anything softer than 57 will be too soft to hold a working edge for any length of time.

If the knife is not engraved it is put through the heat treating process at this time. First it is cleaned and wrapped and sealed in 2 envelopes of inconel foil. It is then placed in the electric furnace and the controls set for the times and temperatures necessary for the hardening to be completed. This process may take up to nine hours. Once the knives have reached maximum temperature and have soaked at that temperature for the appropriate time, they are removed immediately and clamped between two very large heavy aluminum plated and pressure applied to clamp them together. The purpose of this is to remove any distortions that have occurred during the tempering process. Yes, metal bends, twists and warps during hardening. Cooling it between these plates, squeezed as it is, prevents these distortions. However the majority of bending or twisting is in the tempering stage as the crystalline structure of the steel is relaxing. If a major twist happens, Robb puts the knife blank in a special jig and heats the spine of the knife with a hand held torch. The knife is placed in a reversing strain that compensates for the deformation, and the blade is re-straightened. Should there be any slight distortion to the cutting edge, there should be enough left that the final grinding of the cutting edge normally takes care of it. The reason that the blank is wrapped in the foil is that during the tempering process the surface of the metal discolors and a scale develops due to oxygen in the oven. With the blank wrapped as it is, the oxygen burns out so there is no scale only discoloration so it may be slightly darker grey and have some red or

maroon heat marks, but there is no heavy accumulation to grind and/or buff off.

If the knife had been engraved, all that has to be done to the blade is to re-polish and sharpen it. For the rest, the blades have to be finish ground, sanded, buffed, polished, and sharpened. Then the maker's stamp is electro-chemically etched into the blade and it is ready for its handle.

I have a couple more sessions scheduled with Robb in the future which will include engraving and applying and shaping the handle. More to follow.

Norm Lynds



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Workshop Report

WORKSHOP REPORT - MARCH 2014

The Mountain Man Show is behind us, Autumn is well on the way and before we know it we have Summer, the Annual BBQ/Picnic/Awards in June!

Before that the Sheridan Trade Show, the big one for the year, at Sheridan in Wyoming will be on in May. Should be a lot of fun for all those who go, with lots of great workshops to go to, vendors to check out and buy next years supplies from and catch up with all out favourite toolmakers.

Now closer to home. For our April meeting workshop we will be tooling a horse head, endeavouring to put together all the bits and pieces we tooled over the last few months. Suggest everybody bring a piece of leather (7/8oz or more in thickness) roughly 8x10 inches. And of course, the usual equipment:

Stone
Lights
Mallet
Dish and sponge
Tracing Paper, pencil, eraser and stylus for tracing
Background tool
Bevelers, plain and checkered
Figure carving bevelers
Various sized pear shaders
A variety of modeling spoons.
Set of Norm's undercutting tools (for those who have them), otherwise undercutting bevelers.

Paula will bring pictures of horses heads that we can use for patterns.

Looking a little ahead, for the May meeting we will do three or four pieces of various floral carving and toolings. Then we have a month or two to let them thoroughly dry as the June meeting will not have a workshop and then in July, John Wickstrom will show us his methods for dyeing, colouring and antiquing a couple of the pieces we have tooled in May and hopefully in August we can get Fred Nachbar to teach us on the other two pieces we have tooled how he does his colouring with pens.

Two events to put on our calendars in September. Peter Main will be in Spokane in September to do a folder with inverted carving, with emphasis on folding, turned edges and skiving. For information on this workshop, contact Ken Bush and his new phone number is: (509) 294 1883. Also, the Puyallup Fair is on in September and it is time to start thinking of what we will enter and start making our projects. We should try and put in three or four entries each. There are plenty of categories to choose from.

See you all at the meeting.

Len Madison
Workshop Co-Ordinator



The Bill Churchill Children's Leather Program 13th Annual AWARD Nomination Form for the Year 2014

PSLAC Mission is...

- To further the enjoyment of leather and to help others learn more about the real joy of leather - working as a group and sharing ideas and knowledge of leather, its uses and how to use it. To pass on this knowledge to others and then have them pass it on to the new members who come later.

- Form a fellowship with peers, young and old, expert and non-expert, anyone who has the love of leather.

- To show and demonstrate to people outside the Co-Op leather in all forms and try to help them to become interested in leather...to share...time and talent, with all others in the Co-Op -- especially the young.

The Bill Churchill Children's Leather Program Award is designed to recognize PSLAC members who are caring on those principles of the PSLAC mission.

Nominations can be made by any PSLAC member and should be in writing. This form can be used, or any other written method is acceptable.

The nominations should give reasons and examples why they feel the nominee should receive an award.

- How have they helped further the craft?

- Are they active in PSLAC activities?

- Do they help promote leather craft by fair entries, demonstrations, etc.

- Have they helped generate interest in others to pursue the craft.

- Are they willing to share knowledge for the benefit of all.

The PSLAC directors will make the decision for each year and the award will be a once in a person's lifetime. The award will include a medal similar to the Stohlman award with a replica of Bill's hands and his axiom: C.O.P.I. (confidence-observation-practice-imagination).

Send your nominations by April 30th to:

PSLAC

c/o George Marquis

PO Box 25816

Seattle, WA 98165, USA

...or... email to: marquispg@aol.com

RULES:

1. The award may only be won once in a lifetime.

2. The Directors will evaluate the nominations and decide on a winner – one each year.

3. If one of the Directors is nominated, that Director will be replaced by another PSLAC member for the purposes of selecting a winning nomination.

4. The award will be give out at the summer PSLAC Annual Bar-B-Que.

5. Nominations will be due by April 30th.

Previous Recipients of the Bill Churchill Award:

2002 - Woody Collins

2003 - Bob Stelmack

2004 - Dusty Wert

2005 - Ken Imus

2006 - Paula Marquis

2006 - General Seymour

2007 - Special Recognition Award Dave Jensen

2008 - Jackie Holliday

2009 - Len Madison

2010 - Roger Kaiser

2011 - Norm Lynds

2012 - Chan Geer

2013 - Ken Bush

The Bill Churchill Children's Leather Program AWARD Nomination Form for the Year 2014

(Give examples for each category):

► How have they helped further the craft?

► Are they active in PSLAC activities?

► Do they help promote leather craft by fair entries, demonstrations, etc.?

► Are they willing to share knowledge for the benefit of all?

Name of Nominator: _____

Date: _____

Western Washington (Seattle/Tacoma/Everett) PSLAC CURRENT SCHEDULE FOR 2014

General Member's meetings are on the 2nd Sunday of each Month unless specified below. 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM approx.

• Meetings held at Cedar Grange Hall No. 534 at Maple Valley General meetings start at 1:00 PM followed by the mini-demos

Breakfast informal get-together locations:

North Breakfast >>> Last Friday of the month at 10:00 AM. Lake Forest Park Town Centre. 17917 Bothell Everett Hwy, Bothell, WA 98012 Bothell Way N, bordered by 170th N. & Ballinger Way N. Meet in the Third Place Books eating area

South Breakfast >>> 3rd Saturday of the month at 8:30 AM. Homestead. 7837 S Tacoma Way, Tacoma, WA 98409 (253) 476-9000

All Day-Workshop Schedule for 2014:

TBA

April 13	1:00—4:00 PM Cedar Grange General meeting. Tooling horse heads.
May 11	1:00—4:00 PM Cedar Grange General meeting. Floral carving and tooling.
June 8	1:00—4:00 PM Cedar Grange General meeting. Picnic and Bar B Que.
July 13	1:00—4:00 PM Cedar Grange General meeting. Methods of dyeing and antiquing.
August 10	1:00—4:00 PM Cedar Grange General meeting.
Sept 14	1:00—4:00 PM Cedar Grange General meeting. Peter Main workshop in Spokane. Washington State Fair, Puyallup.
October 12	1:00—4:00 PM Cedar Grange General meeting.
Nov 9	1:00—4:00 PM Cedar Grange General meeting.
Dec 14	1:00—4:00 PM Cedar Grange General meeting.

Eastern Washington (Tri –Cities) Desert LeatherCraft Group (DLG) PSLAC CURRENT SCHEDULE FOR 2014

Tri-Cities Desert LeatherCraft Group Member's meetings are on the 3rd Saturday of each month unless specified below:

- Informal meetings held at Spokane Tandy Leather Factory Store, 1702 North Monroe Street, Spokane, WA 99205 (Call (509) 328-9939 for directions).

Eastern Washington (Spokane) PSLAC East PSLAC CURRENT SCHEDULE FOR 2014

PSLAC East Member's meetings are on the 1st Saturday of each Month unless specified below. 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM approx.

- Informal meetings held at Spokane Tandy Leather Factory Store, 1702 North Monroe Street, Spokane, WA 99205 Contact Ken Bush for time, date (normally the 1st Saturday) & details.

We are members of PSLAC-East (Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-op). The East is because we are East of the Cascade Mountains. We offer classes in leathercraft at the Spokane Tandy Leather Factory store. These classes are free and open to the public. An informational newsletter is sent out prior to each class with a short description of the class, whom the instructor will be and what tools will be needed. We also schedule ad-hoc classes which are announced in the newsletter. To be on our mailing list for class notifications, please send an email (including your full name) to whiterosex@aol.com requesting to be on the PSLAC-East mailing list.

All Day-Workshop Schedule for 2014:

Peter Main will be in Spokane in September to do a folder with inverted carving, with emphasis on folding, turned edges and skiving. For information on this workshop, contact Ken Bush.

Ideas for Future classes: Masks, Sporrans, Holsters – w/clip, Embossing, Celtic knot carving, Picture frames, Horse Tack

Ken Bush
White Rose Leather
11923 E. Fairview Ave.
Spokane Valley, WA 99206, 509.294.1883

Did You Know.....?

A Word to Our Readers

Please send your tips for "Did You Know ...?". What we'd like are short items on tricks you have discovered while working with leather which might be helpful to your fellow artisans. It could be a type of material or a technique or some other item that you have found useful in your leatherwork and you would be willing to share with others. So if you don't have an article (which we would also gladly accept!) but you may have a tip or trick that you have found works please drop us a line at dblyman@yahoo.com. Please include your name and email address so we can let others know who you are. Thank you. David Lyman, Editor

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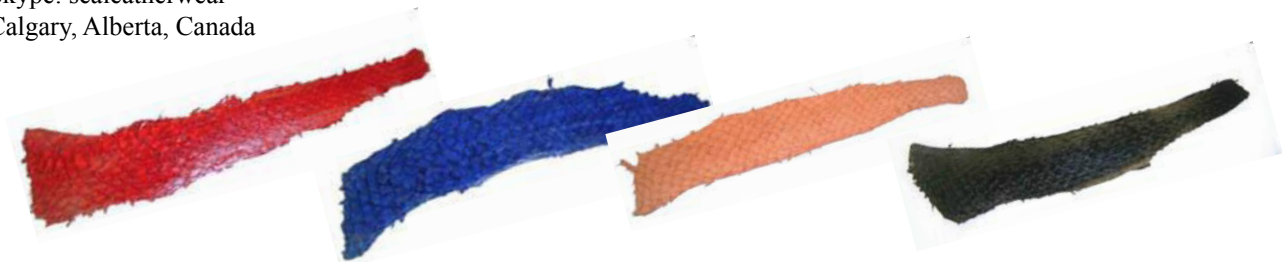
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Raw Hide Gazette

Editor/Publisher : David Lyman

Co-Founders: Bill Churchill & General Seymour

Treasurer: George Marquis

Secretary: Paula Marquis

Directors: Ken Erickson, Len Madison, Roger Kaiser, Paula Marquis & Norm Lynds

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Address for information and correspondence:

PSLAC, c/o George Marquis, PO Box 25816, Seattle, WA
98165, USA

E-Mail: Billing@pslac.org

PSLAC Membership:

“a” - Internet access to **Rawhide Gazette** including Member only area & meeting attendance \$20/year. (1 Person)

"b" - US Postal Mail copy of Rawhide Gazette including new Member only articles & meeting attendance \$30/year. (1 Person)

“j” — Junior (16 and under) Internet access to ~~Raw~~**Hide Gazette** including Member only area and meeting attendance \$10 per year.

All submissions are subject to editing for clarity and length.

All articles submitted must be accompanied by name, address and permission of writer

Advertising Rates

The **Rawhide Gazette** offers advertising space to interested parties.

Ad spaces are as follows:

1/4 Page or Business Card.....\$60 USD

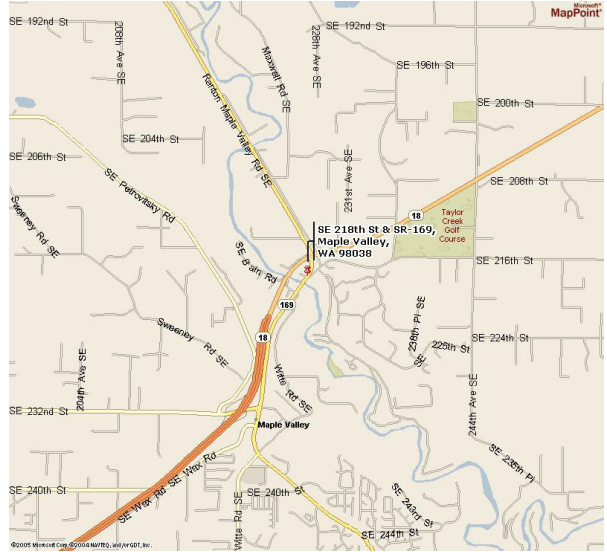
1/2 Page.....\$110 USD

1 Full Page.....\$200 USD

These rates cover a six month time period. PSLAC members are entitled to a 25% discount. Leather companies supporting PSLAC are given free Business Card size advertisement, additional space at regular rates.

The Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op can be found at:

<http://www.pslac.org>



Directions to Cedar Grange #534:

From I-405 take the SR169 exit and proceed toward Maple Valley on the Maple Valley Highway. In about 10 Miles you will reach the SE 216th/SE 218th Street intersection. Turn Right onto SE 218th (the down-sloping hill on the left next to the Maple Valley Market parking lot) towards the big white/gray building next to the bridge (the Cedar Grange). The parking lot is on the first left.

From Highway 18 take the SE 231st, Junction 169, Maple Valley exit. Proceed to the Highway 169 (Maple Valley Highway) junction. Turn North (toward Renton) on Highway 169 and go about ¾ mile until you reach the SE 216th/SE 218th Street intersection. Turn left onto SE 218th (the down-sloping hill on the left next to the Maple Valley Market parking lot) towards the big white/gray building next to the bridge (the Cedar Grange). The parking lot is on the first left.

From Issaquah take Front Street toward Hobart and Highway 18. In about 10 miles get on Highway 18 West heading toward Maple Valley and Auburn. Follow the Highway 18 instructions.

**PSLAC
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